

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

These are public airwaves and Sinclair is using them free of charge. It is obligated by law to serve the public interest; democracy cannot continue without a populace informed by all manner of fact and informed opinion. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. When large companies dictate the airing of biased programming to local stations, the governed cannot give informed consent and democracy becomes moribund.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.